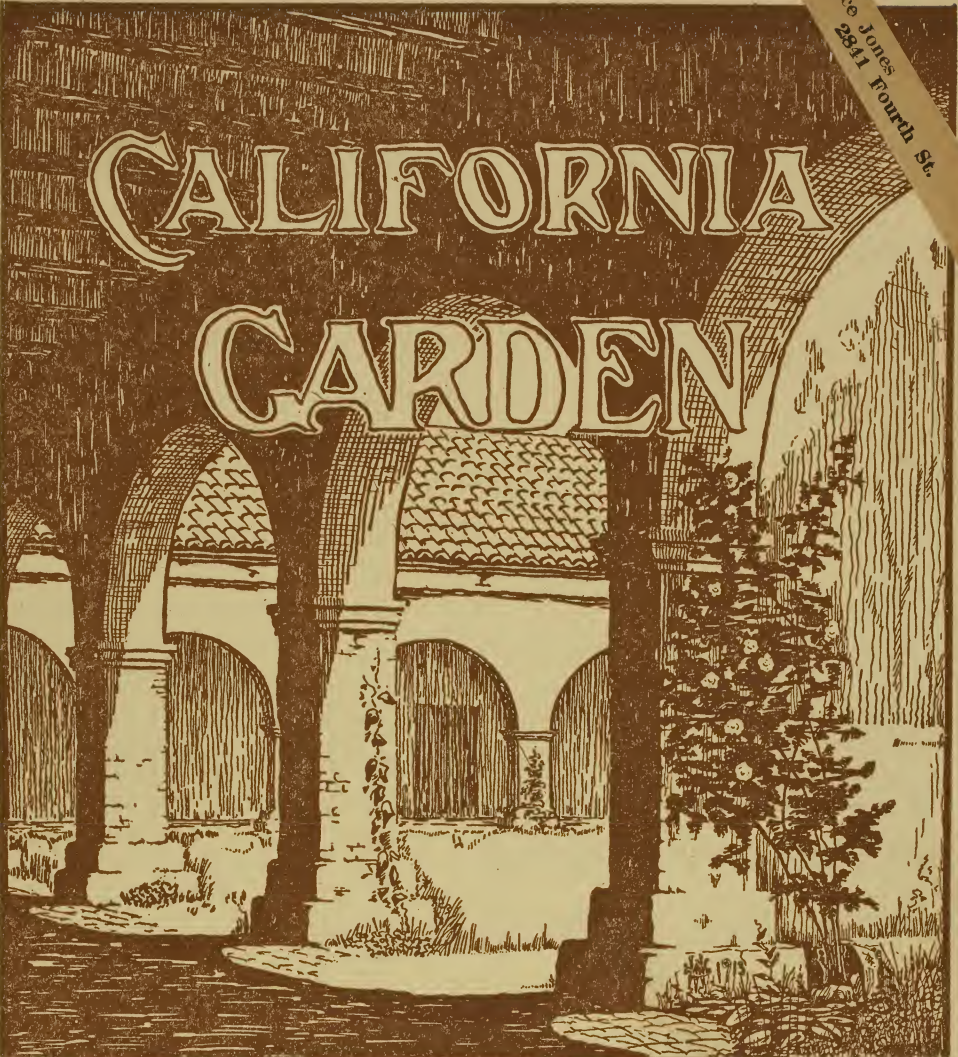




CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Alice Jones
2841 Fourth St.
6-18

Per Year
One Dollar

January, 1918

Per Copy
Ten Cents

The Garden and the Weather
Clayburn LaForce and His Prize Potatoes
War on Garden Pests
Chamber of Commerce Food Production



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The California Garden

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No. 7



THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN begins 1918 in a somewhat delayed manner. We take all the blame for this upon our own shoulders, for it has been our own particular matter that held up the forms. We regard our readers as our family, our immediate family, which should overlook our shortcomings if any one can, so while wishing them a Happy New Year we offer this explanation of our tardiness. The offense is personal, so the explanation must needs be so. We have other activities beside the garden, running chiefly to flowers and chickens, and in the intervals so to speak we endeavor to be a good husband and father. Any one or even two of these pursuits are a pleasure; the three are a labor, and for a month we have served all three at the same time in a compulsory manner. Our chicken man was enticed away from us and our flower standby unaccountably got sick, while the help in the house having reduced us to a state of nervous prostration was dismissed to save what was left. An ex-blacksmith essayed the chicken end and nearly ruined us by lavish feeding before he left, having failed to extract perfectly good blacksmith's wages for doing chicken chores abominably! then it would not rain and watering was a daily task, therefore all our inspiration flowed out of the handles of shovel, rake and bucket and the prayers and entreaties of good Keene were all in vain till the gardener recovered, a little rain fell and a family threatens to move into the abode of him to whom chickens, cow and horses look for provender, though we have to foot the bill. If that is not a good enough excuse you have never been there.

Our Washington Mentor, to whom we bow, says that half of you have never heard of Food Conservation and what it is all about. We were inclined to differ till we read in the daily press that our Chamber of Commerce had wired the Government controller of our railroads not to take off any passenger trains because it

would harm our city and it did not think it necessary any way. We are not affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce, nor financially able to send Washington telegrams, but we will say here that the Controller has not only our permission but our support in doing what he thinks best for the country at large in this crisis and believe it is possible he may have more data for a decision than is available in our little burg.

We are daily getting a new angle on our soldier boys who have other appreciative organs beside stomachs it appears. The last thing one would have thought of supplying for a cantonment as almost a necessity is flowers, and yet there seems a most insistent cry for them especially in the hospitals. Those who have taken them there tell tales of how they were distributed piece meal in answer to the cry of "Just one please". It is unfortunate that flowers are unusually scarce for San Diego, but that does not mean they do not appear almost abundant to those who come from the places of hard winter and it should be remembered that to back-east folks a geranium is a flower, so that when you are asked if you have anything to contribute don't say "nothing", because you have not a gorgeous rose or an orchid; geraniums will do.

The years as they go bring funny reversals of feeling and today California is Whereasing the President asking for permission to import Chinese farm laborers, but only for the duration of the war. A long article on the subject for publication is at hand, but if it were used we could not print our own stuff, which may be poor but is our own. The curious part of the move is that the Chinese Government has apparently offered any number of experienced farmers on this limited basis. There is no question that the lack of farm help in this state is acute and believing that food production should be speeded up to the maximum as a war measure we think we should use whatever help is avail-

able to the limit, for the job of this United States is to win the war; any other interest at this time can well afford to wait its turn which will come afterwards.

Again the waver of the smokestack banner is rushing into print with his opinions under the scare head of Smokestacks or Geraniums. He has it all his own way, there never was any cry of Geraniums or Smokestacks only Geraniums and Smokestacks, which have been charmingly combined in many places without either suffering. It is a well established fact that the

smokestack will go, whether or no, where it can profitably smoke and it won't unless there is that fire of profit behind the smoke. That is a general principle, for some places have the smokestacks left smokeless as an example of the foolishness of going to the wrong place. It is time San Diego dropped this subject till it can approach it in the belief that all citizens may have honest if opposing convictions and there is very seldom a definite right and wrong and the middle of the road is a safe place.

The Garden and the Weather

By Alfred D. Robinson



SIGN this article and accept full responsibility for it because, being an established eccentric, I can say what I think without reflecting upon our beloved city and its environs. It matters not that I have been in Southern California thirty years for the claim of the prophets of today is that our chief drawback and handicap is that our view is still unpurged of some Californian leaven and therefore must still be further mixed with the saving yeast of the way they do in Detroit, Chicago, or Columbus, Ohio. Probably the Back-easters are right; they say so themselves.

What shall be our course in the garden in view of the fact that our rainfall, in common with the whole state, is woefully behind the normal, more so than ever before so far as records go? The attitude that there is plenty of time for rain yet is unwise. to say the least of it, for we must remember that it takes several inches of rain falling reasonably close together to penetrate our soil to any depth and according to the nature of the soil our trees are rooted from eighteen inches to say six feet. The general estimate is that an inch of rain goes down one foot so that anything less than six inches will fall short of giving any moisture to the deep rooted stuff. Should six inches fall in inch lots from two to three weeks apart its effect will not be altogether cumulative. This magazine has little to do with the farmer, but it might be remarked that the growing period for grass, hay, and grain is not to exceed half the year and this time we have already lost two months of that.

Fortunately the city water department assures (I thank the daily press for the word) us of an ample water supply whether it rains from now on or not and time is not the essence of run-off into our reservoirs as we found by a week's demonstration a few years back.

It would seem helpful in our inquiry to ask what would be the ideal condition at this season so far as the moisture question is concerned, and we all of us know that such would be the soil wet down as far as we could dig, but in any case some six feet of moisture therefore placing in conjunction with this conclusion the ample water supply, the answer would seem to be **irrigate thoroughly**. In many small gardens where irrigation has been regular right along the ground will be wet down but not if the sprinkling has been a mere holding of the hose till the surface was nice and sloppy for it is not given to the average person to stand and hold a hose while an inch of moisture is sprayed all over the ground and that would at best spell only eight inches of wet depth. It may be well to insist upon the necessity of this irrigation, even if we have our normal amount of rain from now on amounting to only six inches, and there is no jot of justification for supposing that a dry November and December means a wet time afterwards; in fact quite the contrary, if records go for anything. It does not take a great deal of water to thoroughly irrigate a small garden and a thorough wetting is water conservation as compared with ordinary eternal surface sprinkling, but with large grounds the advisability of concentrating on a chosen portion may well be considered, especially as those who know the needs of the hour are insisting more than ever upon greater food production. The rain shortage is not local. There will surely be a short crop of those things that are raised without irrigation and should have been in the ground and growing now, while the crops that are planted later depend upon the water stored in the soil or supplied by irrigation. In any event the absolute most must be made of what rain we do get and the first consideration is, have you your land in condition to absorb and store every drop of it? This

means loose soil, a ground sponge in other words, and then follow every rain with a good cultivation. I do not advocate too free a use of bulky, strawy manure for such requires the maximum amount of moisture and without it will do more harm than good. It is well to remember that much irrigation is almost sure to induce a sour soil in which nothing thrives, so present time seems to call for a free use of lime which cannot but be of benefit. Before leaving the irrigation question I am impelled to hint that every gallon of water used should be done purposefully.

"What shall I plant?" is the question I hear waking and sleeping by personal approach, telephone and letter. Ignoring years of flowers, nothing but flowers, I place first a vegetable garden, for I do not deem it any excuse for ignoring the urgent suggestion of our food conservationists to do this, that one has failed before, could not sell the surplus, can buy cheaper than they raise and so forth, there is no legitimate excuse save absolute lack of conveniences or the ability to get them. I confidently leave this department to Mr. Birch, who can tell you even more than he writes in this magazine.

This does not mean that the flowers are a negligible thing. **THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SO WANTED IN SAN DIEGO AS NOW.** The gallant fellows who have donned the uniform of our country like flowers; they ask for them and among so many there will always be a percentage who are sick and these **NEED** flowers. If you doubt this statement talk with those who have taken them out to the military hospitals. Take good care of what flowers you have growing and plant up the vacant spaces between. This is the time for concentration and there is not such water and labor conservation as to plant all the ground. Gardens on a level or terraced

should be laid off in small sunken areas so that flooding is easy, and can be done quickly or slowly, according to the depth of wetting required and if these are covered with growth they will shade all the ground and prevent a large percentage of evaporation. I hear a hundred tongues exclaim, but we thought everything should be given room and have you not just said this should be a great cultivation year?" Select hundred you are in the class with those who invite me to chop down all my trees so that my potatoes may flourish. I ask you where do you find such wonderful natural gardens as in the woods? It is only a question of enough water and nourishment for all and in the small spaces we are considering that is easy; a mulch of manure through which the water seeps, or liquid fertilizer applied weak and often. This does not mean that I advocate planting all the soil will possibly bear. I recognize the supreme necessity of giving a fine specimen room to show off its fineness but I am urging a close planting of vegetables and flowers in small gardens this year **A. D. 1918.**

I advocate the hardier things first; our own California poppy. These thousands of boys won't see our state glory to advantage in the wild this year, let them see it in all our gardens. It will do wonderfully in the sunken beds making great golden bowls of delight, and mix with them some larkspur. You will like it yourself. Snapdragons, nasturtiums, all those things we have despised; let us have a riot of color so that when the visitor reading our rain gauge comes to peer, he remains to wonder and enjoy.

My space limit is long since passed, so I commend to you all an extra effort in your garden.

The Vegetable Garden

By Walter Birch



NOW that the prolonged dry spell is broken, let us hasten to take full advantage of the rain and prepare our ground for immediate use. Last year, altho' the movement was not started until along in the spring, in fact until almost too late to break up fresh ground, there were hundreds of city lots broken up and put into "War gardens", and it was surprising how well a number of them did. It was conceded by the local Food Production Committee that in addition to the benefit to San Diego of the cleaning up of all these lots and the production of the extra supply of vegetables, the principal advantage gained

would be in getting all these lots in shape for the real campaign for the war garden this year. Let us not lose sight of this, but encourage by every way possible the planting of war gardens this year in San Diego. To those of us who can give our own time to this work, there is nothing more healthful, and add to this the feeling that, as well as benefiting ourselves we are helping our government and the great cause we are fighting for. surely we ought not to hesitate in doing what we can.

I often think when writing these pieces about the vegetable garden and sometimes repeating the same thing over again, more par-

ticularly when it refers to the rudimentary things in gardening, the things that you take it for granted that everyone knows, I wonder how many of you say "why doesn't he tell us something we don't know"! Well, I inflict these things on many of you that do know, so that I may reach the ones that do not, so that they may make the right kind of a start as far as my very limited knowledge can direct them. You know I run a seed store, so am in a position to know somewhat of the knowledge or want of knowledge of the average person planting a garden in San Diego. With these somewhat apologetic remarks I shall proceed with my new year inflictions!

If you are going to plant a vegetable garden in San Diego this year, remember that owing to the dry weather, cold nights and drying winds up to this writing, you are almost as far ahead in starting your garden now, as you would be had you started it two or three months ago. In beginning be thorough in the preparation of the ground, remember the long dry summer and dig deep. Use well rotted manure and don't be afraid of getting it on too thick. If your soil is heavy, in addition to the manure add a sack of lime to every 600 or 800 sq. ft. spread this evenly on the surface and wet down with the hose for several days before digging. Put your manure on top of this and turn them both under with a good spading fork. Allow the ground to settle for a few days, and then

rake off to a fine surface. Then take your garden line and lay out your rows for planting. For the general run of vegetables your rows should be from 2 to 3 ft. apart. If your ground is well fertilized and you have not much room you can put your rows closer. Unless you want to gamble on the result, with a chance of getting high prices on the market, it is safer at this time of year to stick to the hardier kinds of vegetables. Cut out beans unless you like the Broad Windsor and plant such things as beets, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, radishes, peas, parsley, parsnip and spinach. These are all in season. Plant at an average dept of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Be sure and have moisture enough in your ground to bring your seed up, which is much easier and more satisfactory than irrigating before that time. If your ground is already fertilized you will find a sack or two of Pulverized and steamed Sheep Manure a capital thing to work in along the seed rows or after the plants are up. It is free of all weed seeds and is fine for either for the lawn or garden. If you have not already done so get your strawberry plants, rhubarb, cabbage and cauliflower set out. The Premier and Warren Strawberries are something extra good. Plant also onion sets and garlic sets and asparagus roots.

Now get busy and you will be surprised at the amount of real pleasure you will get out of your work in the garden.

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews

This is a month, when under usual conditions, that is with enough rain to moisten the soil to the depth of several inches, we can plant anything or everything in the way of hardy annuals, deciduous shrubs, fruit trees, etc. The latter should have the earth blasted where they are to be placed, or taken out to the depth of several feet. If the soil is poor replace with good rich earth and manure, then let the water soak in very slowly for some time. When the soil has dried out enough to work up well put in your tree or shrub. Under present conditions, with no rains and drying winds, it would not be well to undertake too many new things; rather keep in good condition those you have. There will be plenty of work to do in putting your ground in order to get full benefit from the rains when they do come.

If you are putting in some of those late-received bulbs the ground should not be allowed to dry out, but kept moderately moist at all times. Where you have old plantings of such bulbous things as Agapanthus, Amaryllis Belladonna, Hippeastrums, etc., give them a thorough soaking every month and

they will give fine blooms even though the rains should not come.

The latter part of this month and the first of next is the most favorable time for planting of the Hippeastrum, still known by many as Amaryllis. Many of the new seedlings and hybrids are wonderful in coloring and size of the flowers.

For early flowering start your tuberous begonias either in shallow boxes, filled with soil about two-thirds sand, or else in damp moss. Spring blooming bulbs and tubers that are coming through the ground should be looked after every few days. Be careful not to injure the bulbs or foliage when the bloom-stalks begin to appear. Watering overhead is good.

Plant seeds of asters this month for early blooming. Sow them in boxes filled with good rich soil, finely pulverized, make shallow drills and whiten with air-slacked lime to keep insects from the roots. When out of the seed leaf transplant into other boxes. Keep them moist but never let water stand at the roots.

Other annuals which can be planted at this time and give good results with a moderate amount of moisture and care, either from seed

or small plants from the nursery, are Stocks, Coreopsis, Forgetmenots, Snapdragons (there are some wonderful new colorings in these), Centaureas, Schizanthus, or Poor Man's Orchid, Salpiglossis, and many others.

Personally, as I have said frequently before, I much prefer a garden with a number of good blooming shrubs, and a mass of bulbous and tuberous things here and there. If carefully selected they can be made to give us blooms from now on through the year, but in these times of conservation and wartime vegetable gardens, a few of the quick-blooming annuals dotted here and there will give results in a short time.

Plant now sweetpeas for summer blooming. Those which were put in during the fall and are well up should have careful treatment. There has lately been given "Sweetpea Culture Condensed"—Trench deeply, manure liberally, plant thinly, stake quickly, water freely, disbud promptly."

We should note the various succulents around town that are in bloom: Mesembryanthemums, Aloes, Agaves, and others, and see how well they adapt themselves to dry conditions. They steal a little moisture wherever they can, and still grow and bloom cheerfully.

How I Grew My Potato Crop

By Clayburn LaForce

Note—This young man won the prize of a trip to Washington, D. C., for raising the most potatoes on a quarter of an acre of ground, and here tells in his own words how it was done.

After looking around for some time I selected a plot of ground of about four acres, located in a little canyon which drained southwest into San Diego Bay. The view from my ranch was very beautiful, looking across the mesas or down the canyon into the distance where the mists rose over ocean and bay. A well worn path lead over the hills and dipped down thru my canyon and up again on the other side, to be lost in the distant mesas which rolled toward Old Mexico, and this path, I learned, had been used for years by the smugglers who brought contraband goods and Chinamen up from Mexico.

In Southern California our seasons differ from those in other parts of the state, so that I started plowing the first of January, 1917, with a single shovel plow. By January 27 I had bought \$8.00 worth of White Rose seed potatoes and had cut them, two eyes to the piece, and dipped them in a 1 to 30 solution of formaldehyde and was ready to plant. Best of all things about my ranch was the soil, which was a four foot layer of black, sandy loam over a gravel drain. I thought it was well suited to my needs for growing potatoes and took some to the laboratory of the High School and analyzed it. I found it to contain the ten essential elements, all except the sulphur, which was somewhat low.

I planted the pieces 12 inches in the rows and three feet between the rows. They came up so well that I had no replanting to do. I was also very fortunate in having no insects to fight. I cultivated my potatoes well with a Scotch harrow and a 5-toothed cultivator, four times, up to March 25th. I had some trouble with gophers and some mean "two-legged

thief", who robbed me of some of my finest hills.

I harvested from May 10 to May 16 by digging with a fork and was very much pleased to get a yield of 2710 pounds. I had about 100 pounds of culls, but I sold them to a restaurant at a good price, so that my total returns were \$95.00 from my entire crop, minus \$12.90, which gave me \$82.10 net profit.

During the time of my growing crop I had many visitors at my field and can count over thirty-five at this time who were interested enough to pay my ranch a visit.

I have become interested enough from my club work to determine to make agriculture my life work, have learned to grow potatoes commercially and have profited by \$95.00 this year.

I hand pollenized a few potato blossoms and was fortunate enough to get ten seed balls of large size. I expect to plant these this spring and from them I hope to get some fine new variety of potatoes, which in time will make people sit up and take notice.

LESS GARBAGE, LESS WASTE

Interesting figures on the amount of garbage collected in 83 cities of the United States having a total population of more than 22-000,000, show a marked decrease for September and October of this year as compared with 1916.

In September the amount of garbage was 10 per cent less and in October 7 per cent less than a year ago. The "richness" of the garbage in grease according to the U. S. Food Administration has decreased 36 per cent, comparing this October with last.

The more fats we can send to the Allies, the slipperier will be the skids placed under German autocracy.

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD



HE daily press has briefly mentioned that this is a dry season, so such an irresponsible party as the Early Bird feels at liberty to discuss the topic, believing that it is sound common sense to face a situation rather than to ignore it in the faith that such a course improves it.

Rainfall records for this section are available since 1850 and never has there been a season with so light a rainfall as this, the nearest approach being that of 76-77 when .39 of an inch fell by January 1st and the total rainfall for the season was 3.66 inches, falling thus, January, 1.05; February, .18; March, 1.44; April, .26; May, .43. The only other year, or season rather, which fell below four inches was 62-63, which yielded 2.02 of its 3.76 inches in the old year followed by January, .32; February, 1.09; March, .33; April, .13. Coming closer down to date the season of 1903-4 gave us only 4.40 of an inch of which only .92 fell by January 1st, followed by January, .04; February, 1.50; March, 2.17. These figures are taken from the official record. If I now go on to draw parallels and conclusions it should be prefaced that there is nothing in the records justifying such a course, for I fully recognize the justice of the remark made by Ford Carpenter when years ago I asked him early in the season if his experience would enable him to make a prediction as to its outcome, he replied, "I have only learned that we don't know anything about it." Nevertheless the remarks quite frequently heard as to seasons duplicating, this one turning out the best ever, are not supported by the records. Taking the mean for fifty years, 3.49 fell before January 1, and 6.08 afterwards and the mean for the four shortest years 1.18 by January 1st, and 3.16 afterwards. Another matter disclosed by this study of the record is that there is no justification for the frequent ascertain that the climate is changing so far as the rainfall is concerned. I shall hope for plenty of rain yet, but I cannot support that hope with anything better than the firm conviction that our glorious climate is capable of anything except perhaps what dwellers elsewhere might call bad weather. Such a perfect November and December from anything but a water point of view surely was never experienced before, even here. It is reported that the Imperial Valley has had no frost and is still cutting alfalfa.

By the papers I see that Hatfield has been in town again, but those who believe in his rain making ability remember the floods of recent time when he operated at Morena and would rather dry up than put him to work again; and those who don't or are undecided

think on the spectacle of our city fathers trying to explain why he ought not to collect a fee for so much demonstrable water, and pass him up. French scientists in solemn conclave have decided that cannonading cannot shake moisture out of clouds. Their reasons were sufficient for them so we other ordinary folks will have to throw over another cherished belief, therefore the early bird will give you a new one to no doubt have it scientifically and thoroughly condemned and damned. Here it is. Science seems to postulate that the earth has bounds to its atmosphere within which all that it contains that is matter stays a fixed quantity, merely changing in form but losing nothing. Quite possibly this is a mere delusion of the early bird, but supposing it to be true the water element of the world, and in a minor degree its rainfall, so far as all the globe is concerned, would be a fixed amount and an abnormal rainfall in one portion must be accompanied by a lack elsewhere. Is an abnormal rainfall occurring in the world now, and to account for our lack, preferably in this hemisphere?

We have got to know more about the why and wherefore of rain, and the matter of high or low pressures is a mere incident itself requiring explanation. It does not seem feasible that these Messrs. High & Low should go traveling about together putting up huge practical jokes on poor humanity merely just as the fancy takes them. They have a cause, a law governed cause, and when humanity is sufficiently civilized not to use the law to swamp the other fellow or his own private and individual cruises it will be allowed to find it out, BUT each hour of our days shows we have found out too much already for any use whatever. If Germany could make it rain the rest of the world would have need of Arks right away.

After that it seems only fair to print the following taken from the Daily Union of January 6th. IT might be said to represent the orthodox scientific side. I append this all the more readily because I do not wish all the world to agree with me; it would be embarrassing and distinctly uninteresting:

"Commenting yesterday on the possibility of rainfall being brought about by artificial means, San Diego's meteorologist, H. F. Alciantore, said the idea was nothing less than ridiculous to him. Scientific men have agreed, he said, that the heavy cannonading on European battlefields has not affected rainfall conditions over there.

"Man's methods and man's efforts are Lilliputian," he said, "when compared with those of the Almighty. Man may talk, for instance,

of millions of cubic inches of moisture, while Nature deals with trillions of billions of cubic yards.

"This is the time of year when the humidity is naturally high. The barometer has been falling, but it was lower in December. There is nothing on the weather map to indicate immediate rainfall.

"There were a number of days in December when the moisture in the air, the clouds,

the winds, and the air pressure were as favorable for rain as yesterday (Friday), yet the total precipitation for December was unmeasurable—just a "trace."

"The temperature of the air must fall below the "dew point" and fall rapidly before we can have rain. The temperature of the air Friday at 5 p. m. was 57 degrees, the dew point was 50 degrees, so that rain was impossible under those conditions."

The ROSE

A. D. Robinson



ANY questions are coming in about the rose in January. Firstly the embargo placed on doing anything last month is removed. Presuming rain will come later the bushes should not be irrigated, as for pruning they should be as nearly dormant as possible. Pruning may be done any time now and once more the technique is briefly described. Pruning is done for two reasons, to secure better blooms and to shape up bushes, these two objects can be combined to a certain degree, but only in a degree with the finer sorts of teas and hybrid teas, which constitute the bulk of our well doing sorts. A good, sharp pair of pruning shears is the safest instrument, as only the expert can use a knife without danger of breaking branches. Blooms are produced upon new growth and the finest come from the well matured wood of last season, therefore the first thing to look for is this wood, a soft shoot not ripened is no good and by that is meant a pithy one with little hard wood. In a bush that has done well the previous season from two to six of such good shoots will be found. Remove all the wood except these, both large and small, and shorten those that are left to three or four buds, cutting to a bud facing outwards in most varieties, but to an inside one with those of straggly habit like Madam Cochet. If any of the canes remaining interfere with one another take out the least desirable or cut it back to an eye or bud that will lead it away from the other. Much time and many words have been spent over just where to cut and whether straight across or a slant. With pruning shears one cannot regulate angles very well and it is not worth bothering with in this climate, but shears do bruise more than a knife even when sharp and it is safer to allow half to an inch above the bud.

Climbing roses are not pruned nearly enough with us, which accounts for so few varieties doing well. They should be thinned out to main runners which should not interfere with one another and the laterals on these shortened to six inches or so for all

roses bloom on new wood and pruning is the greatest stimulant to growth.

With large bushes and those varieties where size and quantities of bloom are the first desideratum take out all dead wood and thin so that all the wood left has a chance to develop. Most of these big trees, almost, want a lot of the old wood cut away each year. Pruning a rose and trimming a hedge are exactly opposite; the first aims to open up and give room, the other to solidify, therefore cut from the inside rather than the out and don't cut at all unless you know what you are doing. Pruning stimulates so the weaker the growth, the more severe the pruning; the stronger, the lighter the cutting. Very vigorous growers will run too much to wood if pruned hard.

A question is asked about raising roses from seed. Rose seed is slow to germinate and very irregular, some sprouting in a few weeks while others of the same batch will lie dormant a year, the quick growers being for the most part the reverts to wild type. The sooner seed is sown after gathering the better, as is the case with almost all seed. If possible it is better to plant the seed in the ground where it can be covered with a glass frame or a box with a window over it. Any good soil that will not bake too much can be used and a moist condition must be maintained. As the seeds are so large they can be planted regularly, spaced so that the seedlings need not be disturbed for a long time. Rose seedlings are not happy acting things. As a rule they promise well and then are apt to meditate so long on whether it is worth while to go on that the grower is discouraged and during this period mildew and rust find them easy victims. If they pass their first birthday they will probably survive to blooming time when the vast majority will be such as their parents would disown and their grower abandon to their fate. Nevertheless it is interesting work and before these articles have stated as a firm conviction that the roses for California will be raised from California seed in this state and Howard and Smith have

made a noble beginning with their "Los Angeles".

Nothing will be said in this article about raising roses from cuttings because this very dry season with its fine weather is all against such practice. Its success demands moisture in the ground and air.

If rain comes and wets up the ground well roses should have a good top dressing of manure. It is worse than useless to apply manure when the ground is dry. Should our sins keep away the rain, by the end of this month it might be well to thoroughly irrigate around roses and apply the manure afterwards.

An intermittently working conscience will not allow to recommend any planting under present weather conditions. Wait till enough rain has come to wet the ground down three feet. Nothing planted in a wet hole with dry ground sucking at that little moisture all round stands a chance. This does not mean roses should not be planted at all this season for they can be successfully put out for three months yet, that is if the gods are willing, and any of you will know as the time passes whether they want any more rose bushes in San Diego this year.

A Message from England

West Hartlepool, England,
December 31, 1917.

To the Readers of California Garden.

As I pen these few lines the year 1917 is swiftly drawing to a close and a short review of things horticultural may not be out of place. Have we really done all we ought to have done? Many things crop up unawares that puts us off doing something special at the time and we are apt to forget that which we set our minds on doing. Our gardens have done wonderfully well this year. Potatoes have been a bumper crop and so have all "greens". Peas and beans were rather thin owing to the absence of sun just at the time when the pods wanted filling, but they were not bad after all. November turned out fine and warm, which allowed us to get all potatoes up and the ground dug over and manured. We like to get manure on at the time we dig and also put on a good dressing of quick lime at the same time, then when we have had a few weeks frost the land is in good trim and ready for leveling down and planting in the spring.

With respect to flowers, we have had to have a few in an odd corner, just to brighten things up a bit, and a few sent to our hospital has cheered up many a "Tommy" after he has come home to "rest", having borne the trials of the firing line with great patience. I have been deeply interested in reading the efforts put forward in the U. S. A. for the production of food to help the allies and can assure you we appreciate those efforts to the full. Judging by the articles which have been written from time to time in the "Garden" I don't think San Diego will be at all behind. With such stalwarts as you have to lead the way you should be able to give some of the cities a good start, because I am confident that if you searched the whole of the states you could not find a more capable and willing set of teachers. May they have their just reward in due season.

By today's post has arrived the November "Garden" and I notice in an article on "Joining the Dahlia Club," F. C. Arter makes a kindly reference to myself, and I am sorry I cannot just grip the offered hand and say: "Friend, thank you," but believe me I do so in my heart. Such messages are very comforting and help to lighten one's burdens a great deal. I am, and always have been, a great advocate for gardening, I believe it to be the healthiest and most useful hobby a man can have and when a man can thoroughly grasp the meaning of all the wonderful fruits and flowers of the earth and imparts that knowledge to his fellow man, I think he comes very near to his "Maker" and does more good than a great many so-called "statesmen".

You have one consolation in San Diego and that is when you lay down to sleep at night, you can do so with safety, which is more than we can sometimes say. However, there is an end to all things and surely this terrible conflict cannot last much longer. God grant it may soon cease. However, we can only "carry on" in good faith, hoping for the best, for in the end right must triumph over might.

May you all have a very pleasant and happy Xmas and January, 1918, bring peace and prosperity to our allied cause.

Keep the home fires burning,
Whilst your hearts are yearning.
Tho the lads are far away they dream of home.
There's a silver lining thro the dark clouds shining
Turn the dark clouds inside out
'Till the boys come home.

Very sincerely yours,
W. C. KING.

Honey and syrup instead of sugar will make victory just as sweet—and bring it much sooner.

Food Production Committee Report

G. J. CHAMPLIN, Secretary

December 12, 1917.

The Food Production Committee was organized on the 27th day of April, 1917, the committee consisting of the following:

W. H. Porterfield, Chairman, J. G. Morley, Guy T. Keene, W. A. Laidlaw, Duncan MacKinnon, H. C. Schafer, H. J. Bischoff, F. M. Lockwood, Walter Birch, Winfield Hale, W. W. Whitson, Julius Wangerheim.

On April 28th the committee elected G. J. Champlin Secretary.

The idea of the food production committee came mainly from the minds of men forming what was known as the Potato Committee, a voluntary committee organized early in March for the encouragement of the production of vegetables upon the vacant lots within the municipality.

When war was declared it was deemed advisable to enlarge upon the work of the former committee, and the civic bureau of the Chamber of Commerce organized the above. The aim has been to instill into the minds of all citizens the necessity of producing as far as possible all the food stuffs on their tables.

This has been done by giving out seeds supplied by the Government, some 25,000 packages having been given out in the early spring; by the distribution of 28,000 tomato plants, and 65,000 cabbage plants, these plants having been raised in the Park nursery, the expense being defrayed by the Standard Canning Company.

Early in the campaign the services of a team, plow and two men were obtained from the city working force, mainly through the instrumentality of Mayor Wilde. A campaign of newspaper publicity was started which resulted in seven hundred eighty-six lots being plowed and planted.

As a great majority of these lots had never produced anything but weeds and rubbish, the results in every case have not been what we would have desired, but these facts must be considered in figuring the results.

The campaign was not started until late in the spring, when the rains were about over. Many people went into it without any previous knowledge of raising produce in California. In some instances, particularly with some of the schools, lots were never used after they were plowed.

But in the main the results were all and more than might have been expected.

The Committee, working with some of the Scout Masters of the Boy Scouts, canvassed various sections of the city to determine to what extent people were utilizing their vacant property for gardens. It was found that only

a very small percentage of householders had no gardens, and in these few cases, some good reasons was found for the lack of same.

The Committee has placed thirty-four deserving families in houses free of rent. In many cases these families have vastly improved the property and added to its value.

It also transformed the west quarter of the Kuntz Tract, an unsightly plot in the Logan Heights section, into a most productive garden tract, people in that section taking up small gardens, the city furnishing the water, and in some instances the plowing of the land. This was done to demonstrate what could be done upon land apparently of inferior quality. A visit to this tract will convince any one that it was a success.

The campaign of advertising has been carried on among the industrial plants of the city, speakers meeting the employees at lunch time. Talks have also been made by the Secretary at the High School and before various semi-civic organizations.

The large advertisers have been of material assistance by running slogans in their display ads and the ministers have also assisted by giving out notices from their pulpits.

About the middle of October the Committee, working in sympathy with the National Government, in its idea of food production, but before there had been any demand from the Government for a meatless day, started a "meatless Tuesday". All the restaurants, cafes, hotels and even smaller lunch wagons were seen and signed a pledge to abstain from the use or sale of meat on Tuesdays until the end of the war.

The Committee has now the problem of cheaper fish and if the co-operation of the State Food Commissioner can be obtained satisfactory results are sure to follow.

As the rainy season is approaching your Secretary feels that there is more need for the work of the committee for the next few months than there has been in the past, and much can be accomplished with the start now made and a foundation to build upon.

Such success as the Committee has had is very largely due to the undivided support of the newspapers and the willingness of the men on the Committee to give their time to the work.

General Apathy and Private Interest are two enemies of our national welfare. Each is as dangerous as a Kaiser's agent and should be excluded from every American home and industry.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager
Office, 945 Seventh St., San Diego, Cal.

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L. A. Blochman, Treasurer
Miss Alice M. Greer, Secretary
Miss A. M. Rainford, Miss K. O. Sessions
G. R. Gorton, J. G. Morley

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Floral Association Meetings

Evening Meetings

February 19—With Miss Hortense Coulter, corner Second and Spruce. Car No. 4. "Ferns, Fern Beds and Their Construction." Exhibit of specimens, both fresh and dried. Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Mrs. Fleetwood, Miss K. O. Sessions.

March 19—With Mr. M. Kew, corner Spruce and Sixth streets. Car No. 1 or No. 4 to Spruce. "Aquatics, and Their Culture; Pools and Their Construction." Mr. Davison, Mr. W. D. Page.

April 16—"City Park Development Through Private Donations." Mr. John McLaren, Mr. John Morley.

May 21—Japanese Views with Stereopticon by Miss T. H. Graham of Sierra Madre, Los Angeles county.

June 18—Annual meeting.

January Meeting

Miss Alice M. Greer



THE Floral Association held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blochman, corner of First and Thorn streets on the evening of January 15.

The President introduced Mrs. Rice of San Francisco, who spoke in regard to the Wild Flower Day exhibits held in that city. April 24 is designated as California Wild Flower

Day. For several years San Francisco, thru Mrs. Rice and her committees, has given on that day exceedingly successful fetes, successful financially, artistically and educationally. We were represented there last year by a collection of native local shrubs and flowers sent by Mr. Fleming.

Mrs. Rice urged San Diego to hold such a fete, offering her personal assistance in case we should plan one.

Mr. Robinson spoke in accord with Mrs. Rice's suggestion, but maintained that we should and could not limit our fete and exhibit of California Wild flowers to one day or place. He urged a sort of progressive, out of door, unplucked exhibit, thinking the best display can be held in just the spot nature herself designates. He also advised all not to cease planting their gay flower gardens on account of war and food conservation measures, but rather to increase the planting, for the enjoyment of the many service men in our midst, who expect to see Southern California a veritable flower garden. Large patches of California poppies, petunias—especially the white varieties—and the more attractive geraniums should gladden all gardens with their bright hues. He spoke of the charming effect of planting wild flowers. Mr. Payne of Los Angeles has wonderful mixtures. His blue and yellow combination is a notable one. His Godetias are exquisite under cultivation, coming forth in four combinations of hues. His Blazing Stars are very attractive and the Baby Blue Eyes are a constant joy. Mr. Robinson made a strong plea for constant irrigation in lieu of the dry winter and ended with a patriotic call for unity and loyalty to the government's suggestions in these war times.

Mr. Fleming reported on the findings of the committee which was to visit Camp Kearney in the interests of tree and shrub planting at that place. He stated that gardening at the Camp must be very limited, and reported that the officers are anxious to aid in any planting, but such work is at present held back on account of lack of organization or definite plans. Therefore he recommended two things first—the publishing by the Floral Association of a monograph listing the plants, trees and shrubs suitable to the camp conditions and the care of such, after planting. Second:—the holding of an Association meeting on the camp grounds, to which the officers and men interested in the scheme should be invited.

Mr. Fleming also spoke of the possibilities of forming a scheme whereby cut flowers and greenery could be regularly shipped to the base hospital at the Camp. This will mean a good deal of detail work, careful management and organization. The President asked Mr. Fleming and Mr. Blochman to make fur-

(Continued on page 12)

War Declared on Garden Pests

G. R. GORTON



THE San Diego County Horticultural Commission has recently inaugurated a "ruthlessness campaign", the object of its attention being the California ground squirrel. Damage to grain and other crops amounting to thousands of dollars annually is attributable to the activities of this pestiferous rodent, and the combined efforts of the County Commission, the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, the County Farm Bureau, the Farm Adviser and other agencies are directed towards its extermination. The State Board of Health has also declared war on the ground squirrel as a possible carrier of the germs of bubonic plague. The method of control varies somewhat with the season of the year, poisoned grain being ordinarily used during the dry months as exposure to rain removes the coating which contains the poison, while carbon bisulfide is especially effective during the rainy season.

Poisoned grain may be prepared according to the formula given below, or may be obtained from the office of the Horticultural Commission at the Court House, at the approximate cost of manufacture—15c per quart—which is sufficient for 40 to 50 baits. This quantity if scattered along squirrel trails or on hard, clean places upon the surface of the ground about the holes, will not endanger live stock or wild birds, but it is safer not to allow poultry access to areas where the poisoned grain has been distributed.

The formula in general use is that supplied by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is as follows:

No. 1 Recleaned Barley, 160 pounds.
Strychnin (Powdered Alkaloid), 10 ounces.
Bicarbonate of Soda (Baking Soda) 10 ounces.

Dark Karo Syrup, 2 1/2 pints.
Saccharin (Powdered), 1 ounce.
Glycerin, 10 tablespoonfuls.
Thin Starch Paste, 7 1/2 pints.

Prepare as follows:

1. Mix thoroughly the Strychnin and Soda in a 3-gallon kettle, breaking all lumps.
2. Add the Karo Syrup. Stir until smooth.
3. Add Saccharin. Mix thoroughly.
4. Add Glycerin. Mix thoroughly.
5. Make starch as follows:

Dissolve required amount of starch in sufficient cold water to make a thick liquid. Add to hot water.

6. Add starch solution to remainder of mixture.

7. Add to barley, mixing well so that each grain is coated.

For mixing small quantities an ordinary galvanized wash tub is convenient. For larger quantities a tight, smooth box, cement mortar box, or similar receptacle may be used. The mixing may be done with a hoe.

N. B. Strychnin in any form other than the powdered strychnin alkaloid is not effective in this formula.

CAUTION: All poison containers and all utensils used in the preparation of poisons should be kept **plainly labeled** and **out of reach** of children, irresponsible persons and live stock.

The above formula is effective as the poisoning of the squirrels is accomplished simply by absorption through the mucous membranes of their cheek pouches while carrying the grain, whether or not any of the grain is actually eaten. Before the animal has had time to detect the bitter taste of the strychnine, enough of the poison will have been absorbed to cause its death. There are many and various methods of using Carbon Bisulphide, one of the safest being the pump method, which consists of pumping the liquid into the burrow, usually with a specially constructed pump.

Carbon Bisulphide is very volatile, and forms a poisonous gas, heavier than air, which readily finds its way into the burrows, which should be closed after applying. When carefully done the waste ball method of application is effective. The balls may be procured in various forms, one of which is ready to saturate with the Carbon Bisulfide, after which the waste ball is placed in each burrow, forcing it as far down as possible. After allowing about two minutes for the gas to permeate the burrow, each one is lighted with a torch or match. An explosion results, and care should be taken not to stand over the burrow while igniting the vapor therein. The burrows are then closed with earth as in the previous method. Carbon Bisulfide is poisonous, exceedingly inflammable and explosive, and should be handled accordingly, care being taken not to expose to open flame, and—as stated, it is very volatile—the liquid should be kept in a tight container.

A question which comes perennially to the Horticultural Commission, is regarding peach leaf curl—a very common disease of peach trees, as a result of which the leaves curl and drop and in extreme cases the tree is defoliated and the fruit also drops. The remedy is, preferably, two sprayings—one in the fall after the leaves have dropped, and the other

in the spring just as the leaf buds are swelling, but before they are opened.

A solution of commercial of commercial lime sulphur and waste in proportions of one part lime sulphur to ten water is simple and effective if thoroughly done. Bordeaux Mixture is also used instead of lime sulphur for this purpose, and is effective if fresh, but deteriorates readily after having been made.

Either of the two fungicides may be obtained at several of the local seed stores.

(Continued from page 10)

ther plans in regard to the work and report to the Board.

Mr. Fleming gave the report of the committee on the flower exhibit for the library. The Board of Trustees of the Public Library have consented to give space in their vestibule for the exhibit, and to cooperate in every way in their power to make the exhibit a success. The following plan was presented to the members of the Association.

"To start the project it would probably be best to confine the exhibit to a dozen vases. These vases to be placed on a suitable stand and securely fastened in their places to offset any danger of upsetting and breakage. The exhibit to comprise specimen flowers and foliage of our native plants and of the most interesting plant material from our city park or private gardens, especially material of an educational nature. All specimen are to be carefully labeled and reference made to books covering the subject. It would be well to refer for special study to the botanical records in the San Diego Museum of Natural History. Another feature would be the arrangement of the flowers for their decorative qualities. The display would be changed each week, and the daily press give publicity.

The President authorized Mr. Fleming to continue with his plans. Miss Sessions had on hand her usual collection of interesting and instructive plants, ferns and seeds. She asks that more members bring in such specimen to the monthly meetings.

New Association Secretary

Miss Alice M. Greer has been appointed Secretary of the San Diego Floral Association to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Winfield Hale, who has left the city. The excellent write-up of the January meeting, which appears in this issue, is by Miss Greer, and The Garden is congratulating itself as well as the young lady. Miss Greer is a teacher in the State Normal School.

Wheatless and meatless days here at home mean defeatless days for our "boys" abroad.

Farm machinery is the artillery of agriculture. In what condition will your "field pieces" before the spring drive?

EGGLESS PUMPKIN OR SQUASH PIE

The following Eggless Pumpkin or Squash Pie recipe is furnished by Mrs. M. Philbrook, of Lakeside, who says she likes it better than the one published in the Garden last month:

- 1 pint of cooked pumpkin
- 2 cups of sweet milk
- 1 mixing-spoon each of molasses, honey and sugar
- 4 soda crackers
- $\frac{1}{2}$ level teaspoonful of soda
- Cinnamon and nutmeg to taste.

Mash the pumpkin through a cullender. Heat the pumpkin, molasses, honey, sugar, milk and soda. Boil a few minutes. Dry crackers in oven, roll fine, add to the mixture also spices and stir. Cool some before putting it in crust. Use a deep pie pan. Add a little salt, a small piece of butter or not. Baked in a pudding dish and served with cream.

REDUCED ALCOHOL IN BEER

President Wilson has approved the recommendation of the U. S. Food Administration that the alcoholic content of beer be reduced in the first instance to 3 per cent maximum. The volume of grain used in brewing is also to be reduced to an amount, approximately 70 per cent of the amount of grain formerly used, enabling the brewing of the same volume of beer.

WORLD'S WHEAT PROSPECTS

Important figures on the world's wheat crop for 1917 gathered by the U. S. Food Administration show that the combined production of all countries is about 32,000,000 bushels less than last year and about 400,000,000 bushels less than the pre-war average. This decrease from the pre-war average is more than 10 per cent. France shows the greatest decrease of all countries, her 1917 crop being 54.5 per cent less than her average crop before the war.

The total world crop of wheat is estimated at 3,347,924,000 bushels of which the United States produced 659,797,000 bushels, the greatest amount of any nation. Other principal wheat countries arranged according to size of crop are Russia (in Europe), India, Canada, Argentina, and Australia. Approximately two-thirds of the wheat crops for 1917 was grown in countries open to world commerce.

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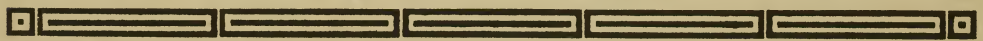
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